



Sakki means “**my sackcloth**.” In the **Bible**, people wore sackcloth—often made of coarse goat hair—when they were deeply grieved over sin, both personally and as a community. It was intentionally uncomfortable, symbolizing an outward expression of inward repentance, sorrow, and brokenness before God.

Today, while we may not wear sackcloth, we can embrace its spiritual meaning through intentional acts of humility and repentance. Set aside time for soul-searching, confession, and turning back to God. This might include seasons of prayer and fasting, attending a spiritual retreat, or simply creating space for silence and reflection.

Adopt practices that humble the ego—such as kneeling in prayer, serving others quietly, seeking accountability, or living simply. In doing so, we clothe our hearts in the spirit of sackcloth, returning to God with sincere repentance and renewed heart.

A Prayerful Way to "Put on Sackcloth" Today

“Lord, I come before You not with robes of self-righteousness, but in the rough cloth of repentance. I lay aside comfort and pride to be honest with You. Search me. Break what needs to be broken. Heal what needs to be healed. And clothe me again in Your mercy.”

My dear Smith Chapel family,

Happy Sunday! I'm writing from the airport as I prepare to fly to Kentucky for my last summer session at Asbury Theological Seminary, where I've been working toward my Doctor of Ministry. It's hard to believe two years have already passed since I began this journey! I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity to be equipped so that I can better equip you—for God's glory. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support all along the way.

You have a worship service to attend, so I'll keep this brief. In your **bulletin** today, you'll find a **postcard** in an envelope with the word "**sakki**" on one side and an explanation on the other. You might be wondering why I gave that to you. Recently, I had a **dream** in which that word appeared to me. When I woke up, I searched its meaning and learned that **sakki** is Hebrew for "**my sackcloth**"—from **sak** (**sackcloth**) and the suffix **-i** ("**my**").

In Scripture, sackcloth is a powerful symbol of **repentance, mourning, humility, and brokenness** before God. One vivid example is in **Jonah 3:5–6**, when the people of Nineveh responded to Jonah's call to repentance by putting on sackcloth, leading to a great spiritual revival.

I don't often have dreams like this—if ever—so I prayed about why God might have given it to me. The more I pondered, the more I sensed that God was inviting me to examine my heart: **Is it truly right with Him? Are my motives pure when I outwardly serve Him?**

As I head to Asbury—the very place where the Holy Spirit was poured out two years ago—I ask for your prayers. Pray that I may clothe myself in a spiritual sackcloth of humility and repentance, so that when I return, my eyes will be fixed on Jesus, my heart wholly surrendered to Him, and my life fully devoted to His Kingdom.

Let's remember Jesus' words: "**You cannot serve two masters**" (*Matthew 6:24*). Ralph Earle, in the Wesleyan Bible Commentary, explains it this way: "**Discipleship demands complete loyalty. Those who begin by trying to serve God and mammon end by serving mammon alone.**"

With that in mind, let us each seek our own "**sakki**" moments before the Lord. Know that I will be praying for yours, just as I ask you to pray for mine.

Please join in me praying this that you will find in the postcard:

"Lord, I come before You not with robes of self-righteousness, but in the rough cloth of repentance. I lay aside comfort and pride to be honest with You. Search me. Break what needs to be broken. Heal what needs to be healed. And clothe me again in Your mercy."

I love you dearly in Christ. May today's worship at Smith Chapel bring glory to God and renewal to your soul. "*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*" — James 4:10

Shalom Shalom!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ho